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Commander's Corner

By Cmdr. Michael Czerwinsky
CzerwinskyM@ci.el-paso.tx.us

Innovation Helps Track Crime

Your Police Department is on the cutting edge of both innovation and technology when it comes to crime fighting. We have taken advantage of the advancement of computers and their capabilities when it comes to tracking crime. Gone are the days of pin maps to track crime and stacks of police reports piled up on a clipboard.

We now have Crime Analysis and computerized crime mapping programs at our disposal. Each regional command has a crime analyst who is there for the sole purpose of tracking crime trends and providing our staff crime maps.

Our analyst receives information on a daily basis on incidents of crime via our record management system. These crimes, such as burglaries and auto theft, are then plotted electronically on a crime map and color-coded. This provides our officers and investigators an instant visual aid to determine not only where crime is occurring, but also emerging crime trends. This information is then used to determine the deployment of our resources.

Crime mapping has become a routine way of doing business in regards to fighting crime. Crime mapping is just one of the many

tools that we have available to assure that we maximize our resources. It also makes us more effective and directly impacts your quality of life as a citizen in El Paso. The good news is that the WSRCC residents can log onto the EPPD website and review these crime statistics themselves, and find out what is happening in their own neighborhoods. These are posted on a weekly basis on our WSRCC Newsletter.

The results speak for themselves, as El Paso was recently named the 2nd safest city in the United States with a population over 500,000.

Crime Prevention Information

By Ofc. Mario Pagan
Crime Prevention, WSRCC

With the holidays approaching, criminals are more likely to be out and about. We are asking citizens to be more cautious at home, and offer the following tips for a safe holiday season.

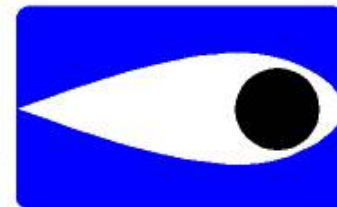
Prevent Home Burglaries

- Never leave the doors to your home, vehicle, or business open or unsecured.
- Check all locks before you leave; leave outside lighting on at night.
- Don't hide spare keys outside.
- Never leave your garage ajar, even if you're home; burglars are not beyond entering an unlocked, occupied residence.
- Don't let strangers in; verify the status of service people.

- When vacationing, request a "Code Watch" from the WSRCC (585-6100) for patrol to periodically check your residence.
- Make sure a trusted neighbor can reach you in an emergency if you are away.
- Perform operation I.D. by labeling your valuables with your Texas Driver's License number.
- Ask police for a home security inspection.
- Actively work your Neighborhood Watch and promptly phone information on crimes or suspicious activities to the police.

Have a safe holiday season!

For further information on Crime Prevention, call Officer J. Milian at 585-6124 (MilianJ@ci.el-paso.tx.us) or Officer M. Pagan at 585-6109 (PaganM@ci.el-paso.tx.us)



ALL SUSPICIOUS PERSONS AND ACTIVITIES
ARE IMMEDIATELY REPORTED TO
OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT

WSRCC General Police Roles: D.A.R.T. Domestic Abuse Response Team

By Ofc. Carol Garcia
D.A.R.T., WSRCC

What is V.A.W.A.?

V.A.W.A. is the acronym for the Violence Against Women Act of 1995. This law expresses the commitment of the United States Government to protect victims of domestic violence. V.A.W.A. states that abused spouses and children of United States citizens and legal permanent residents may take action to adjust their immigrant status without the assistance of the abuser. However, there are several requirements for adjustment of status under V.A.W.A.:

- Applicants must be married to the abuser, or able to prove a parent/child relationship;
- Applicants must be able to provide proof of abuse;

- Applicants must be able to provide the abuser's proof of citizenship or legal resident status;
- Applicants must be able to establish good moral character. Acts of the applicant made in self-defense resulting in arrest can be overcome.

Many women remain in abusive relationships for a number of reasons. For immigrant women, the problem is more significant because many are in the United States illegally, or rely on the abuser's status during the period of adjustment to legal permanent residence. Abusers often threaten to call INS or to report the victims to the Border Patrol and have them deported, take the children away from them, or tell the victims that they have no rights whatsoever. The abused immigrant woman does not take steps to protect herself or seek assistance of law enforcement because of these fears.

The Violence Against Women Act was established by Congress to help these victims gain protection from their abusers through law enforcement agencies; i.e., protective orders, criminal prosecution. It also empowers them and helps them become more self-sufficient through their own action in applying for adjustment of status for themselves and their children, in applying for work authorization and gaining employment, subsequently leading to U.S. citizenship.

The Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services Inc. is the agency who can help with legal services for individuals wishing to become U.S. residents or citizens.

For more information, you can contact me at 585-6150 or:

GarciaC@el-paso.tx.us

Westside Citizen's Advisory Board Connecting Westsiders to the EPPD

By Ms. Tina Ganes, Vice Chair
Citizen's Advisory Board

The Westside Citizen's Advisory Board would like to wish everyone happy holidays and a very prosperous New Year!

As a reminder, the Citizen's Advisory Board meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Westside Regional Command at 6:30 p.m. We hope to see you at our next meeting!

If you have any concerns, comments, or would like to attend our meetings, we can be contacted at our email address mxshashy@episd.org or by voice mail at 585-6001.

For further information on other sections at the WSRCC, please contact:

Patrol – 585-6100

C.I.D. (Criminal Investigations Division) – Sgt. W. Forrister: 585-6150 or E-mail: ForristerW@ci.el-paso.tx.us

Traffic – Sgt. D. Black: 585-6041

J.I.S. (Juvenile Investigations Section) – Ofc. R. Garcia: 585-6069, or Ofc. E. Gonzalez: 585-6068

P.A.R. (Police Area Representatives) – Sgt. J. Duffy: 585-6040 or E-mail: DuffyJ@ci.el-paso.tx.us

Play It Safe For The Holidays

By Ms. Margaret Meraz
Safe Communities Coordinator

The beginning of the holiday season inevitably means the beginning of the toy-buying season. Although the majority of toys are safe, they can become dangerous if misused or if they fall into the hands of children who are too young to play with them. The Safe Communities Program recommends the following precautionary tips when selecting gifts this holiday season.

When selecting a toy for your child, avoid toys with small, removable parts. These toys may pose a choking hazard for young children. Avoid toys with sharp edges, toys that produce loud noises, toys painted with lead paint, and toy cap guns. Also, when selecting toys for your children, avoid propelled toy

darts and other projectiles, electrical toys, and toys with strings or straps longer than seven inches. These products pose potential injury situations for your children.

In addition to this, make sure to follow age recommendations when selecting toys. Many toy-related injuries occur when parents overestimate the child's ability to handle a toy designed for an older age group. If you have children of varying age groups, remember to keep older children's toys away from the younger children.

Bicycles, in-line skates, scooters, skateboards and sleds are also popular gifts for the holidays. However, without the proper

protective gear and skills, injury and death can occur.

When buying these items, it is best to include a helmet, elbow pads, wrist guards and kneepads. You must also make sure that the protective gear meets or exceeds federal safety standards. You may also give a horn or bell, and reflective clothing or signs with the item.

With these tips in mind, you may be able to have a safe and happy holiday season. For further information on the Safe Communities Program, please contact Margaret Meraz at (915) 564-7352.

D.A.R.E. to Resist Drugs and Violence

By Ofc. Frank Nava
Special Operations, WSRCC

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a program utilized by police departments to teach children how to resist the pressures of substance abuse, violence, gangs, and peer pressure. It was created in 1983 by the Los Angeles Police Department and involved the cooperation between the police department, schools, and the community. The program proved effective, and it grew to be taught in all 50 states and in 44 different countries worldwide.

For years, children have been advised to "Just Say No." With the D.A.R.E. program, however, that ideal is taken a step further and the children are taught *how* and *why* to say no. The D.A.R.E. Program was designed to have uniformed police officers enter the classroom and teach children how to resist substance abuse and violence.

In order to teach D.A.R.E., a police officer must undergo 80 hours of special training in areas such as child development, classroom management, teaching techniques, learning modalities, the lesson cycle, and communication skills. After the training is completed, the officer must teach at least one session per year in order to maintain his certification.

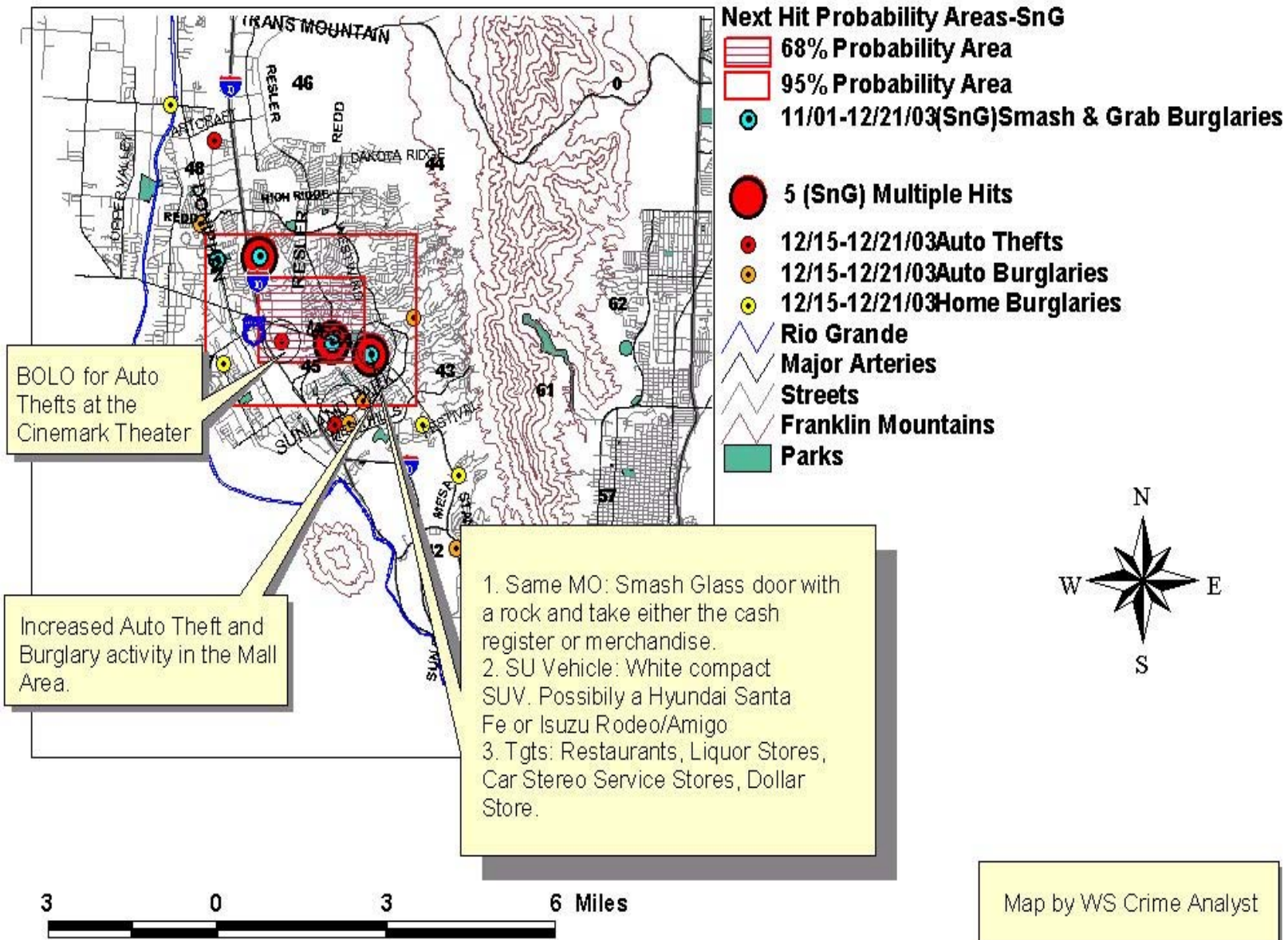
The El Paso Police Department currently teaches a 10-lesson program. Police officers teach 5th graders at selected elementary schools once a week for 45 minutes. Officers address issues such as substance abuse, consequences, self-esteem, gangs, violence, and positive alternatives to criminal activity. The officers also instill their experiences and bring forth real-life, first-hand situations to the class.

In studies funded by the National Institute of Justice, it was determined that students who completed D.A.R.E. learned to resist drugs and peer pressure. The study also showed that these students exhibited reduced gang activity, decreased school vandalism and truancy, better rapport with teachers, improved work habits, better grades, and more positive attitudes towards the police.

There are currently four certified D.A.R.E. instructors at the WSRCC. The officers will be targeting Rosa Guerrero Elementary and Western Hills Elementary for the spring semester. The officers will make every effort to teach each student about the dangers of substance abuse and criminal activity, and have each student carry those lessons as they move on to middle school and life.

WSRCC Hot Spots I – Crime Map

WS Crime Review 12/22/03



WSRCC Hot Spots II – Crime Locations

Burglary of Vehicle	Theft of Vehicle	Burglary of Habitation
100 Arrollo Rd.	6900 Alto Rey Ave.	200 Carnival Dr.
200 Cincinnati Ave.	900 Crocket St.	5600 Costa Blanca Pl.
300 Clairemont Rd.	4900 Crossroads Dr.	3400 Doniphan
6700 S. Desert	5600 N. Desert Blvd.	200 Fairview Ct.
5800 Dumont Wy.	6600 N. Desert Blvd.	200 Maricopa Dr.
6600 Fiesta Dr.	1400 Desierto Rico Ave.	600 Merriman Dr.
500 Irondale Dr.	6300 Doniphan Dr.	4700 N. Mesa
6800 La Placita Ave.	6900 Escondido Dr.	4800 N. Mesa
6000 Los Pueblos Dr.	200 McClintock Dr.	5400 Nastase Pl.
6600 N. Mesa	4700 N. Mesa	1000 Oneida Dr.
7600 N. Mesa	5100 N. Mesa	7000 Ramada Dr.
5200 Pete Payan Dr.	900 S. Mesa Hills	800 Rosinante Rd.
100 Puma Cr.	2000 N. Oregon St.	4400 N. Stanton St.
600 Rainwater Ct.	6300 Pascal St.	900 Springfire Dr.
500 Regency Dr.	900 E. Redd Rd.	900 Sunland Park
7400 Remcon Cr.	900 N. Resler Dr.	100 Vaquero Ln.
900 Singing Hills Dr.	900 Sunland Park	600 White Cliffs Dr.
750 Sunland Park	500 Thunderbird Dr.	
5800 Viewmont Ln.		
600 Wallenberg Dr.		

*Addresses are listed under block numbers and ARE NOT exact addresses

WSRCC Crime of the Week

By WSRCC TAC

The WSRCC TAC Unit is currently attempting to locate a nighttime burglar. The subject was caught on tape at a Dollar General smashing out the front glass door window of a parked vehicle with a rock. The subject left the scene, then returned an hour later wearing a ski mask and made entry into the vehicle. The subject took several items from inside the vehicle. The subject was driving a newer model white compact SUV with possible black trim along the bottom. The subject has targeted Cowntown Liquors, Dollar General,

Cocina De Sara, Audio Drive, Pepe's Chicken, Papa John's Pizza, and Hudson's.

A rash of vehicle burglaries are also being committed where not only do the suspect(s) break into the car and take stereo equipment, but they also take the cars tires (all four) and leave the burglarized vehicle on cinder blocks. It is rationalized that it would take approximately four adults about 4-5 minutes, using conventional tire irons, to commit the act. The suspect(s) must also use another vehicle to place all of the items

in. The vehicles being hit are Euro-style Hondas and Eclipses. Areas of occurrence include Paragon, San Saba, and El Parque. The suspect vehicle is a gray SUV, possibly an Acura. The suspect vehicle might have a spare tire on the back with white letters stating "Acura."

If you have any further questions or comments on the listed cases, contact Sgt. R. Ramirez or Sgt. W. Bare at 585-6100.

Westside's B.O.L.O (Be On The Lookout)

If you have any information on the whereabouts of these individuals, please contact the El Paso Police Department



Abelardo Gomez,
DOB: 12-22-61
3010 Killarney
Offense: Probation
Violation



Christopher Sinclair,
DOB: 10-04-77
500 Thunderbird #109
Offense: Possession of
Marijuana.



Javier Castaneda,
DOB: 10-23-75
453 El Camino
Offense: Theft Over
\$1,500/Under \$20,000
and Probation Violation

**No
Photo
Available**

Roberto Castorena,
DOB: 03-29-78,
506 5th St., Sunland
Park, New Mexico
Offense: Sexual Assault
with a Child and
Engaging in Organized
Criminal Activity

**No
Photo
Available**

Benjamin Romero,
DOB: 07-15-78
825 W. Mcfie, Las
Cruces, New Mexico
Offense: Bench Warrant
Aggravated Robbery.

Off Beat

Name: Eric R. Shelton

Age: 48

Educational background: BS,
University of Texas at El Paso

Number of years as a Police Officer: 19

Current unit assignment: Criminal
Investigations Commander, WSRCC

Why I became a police officer: To answer this, I have to differentiate between a job and a career. For me, a job is a means to get by, survive, and become a part of society without making any contribution. A career is a life choice dedicated to making a difference for yourself, your family, and society. It has to be challenging and result in personal growth. I have had many jobs through my life but have only made two career choices. My first was in the Army in the 1970s. I enjoyed the military and everything it had to offer, but I felt I needed to continue my education. After obtaining my college education, I weighed my options of continuing with my military career or striking off into a career in law enforcement. Nearly 20 years later as a

police officer, I have not questioned that decision. Police work has given me ample room to develop as a person, it is a challenging career, and above all, we make a difference.

Views on Education: No person can develop their full potential without a good education. Without education, we cannot bring in knowledge of our history and our every changing world into our current decision making abilities. Education opens those doors that would otherwise be closed and is the starting point of every successful human activity.

Goals in personal life: There are a number of goals that are important to me. Seeing my children graduate from college is first on my list. From there, I will continue with my career and will develop my skills is my favorite hobby to the extent that I can stay out of emergency rooms (i.e. less medical treatment).

Off duty hobbies: Anything outdoors, to include backpacking and biking. My favorite, though, is mountain biking.

The hardest lesson I have learned about my hobby: Our local terrain is not the most forgiving for mountain bikers. After untold battles lost with cactus and rocks, I have gained a high respect for prickly pears and the unforgiving cushioning quality of our local rocks.



Lt. Eric Shelton with his mountain bike.

Reader Responses & Acknowledgements:

The WSRCC would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a very prosperous New Year!

2003 has been a very successful year for the WSRCC. We received numerous commendations and acknowledgements, and will continue to reflect our dedication to the City of El Paso for 2004.

2003 also saw the first edition of the WSRCC Newsletter. It received praise from both the El Paso Police Department and the public, and has set a precedent that will be continued by the entire department. The WSRCC still encourages your feedback on articles and ideas for future articles. The WSRCC would like to thank everyone for making

the WSRCC Newsletter a success, and we will continue to deliver quality articles and information to you. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, feel free to respond to the WSRCC Special Operations/P.A.R. Section at (915) 585-6040, or at: wspar@ci.el-paso.tx.us

WSRCC E-Force Newsletter brought to you by:

Cmdr. M. Czerwinsky
Lt. E. Herrera
Sgt. J. Duffy
Ofc. C. Whitener

Ofc. F. Nava
Ofc. C. Vasquez
Ofc. L. Pastran
Ofc. M. Pagan

Ofc. B. Parra
Ofc. J. Milian
Mr. S. Holguin
Mrs. M. Whitener